



**For Immediate Release
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**DCR AND HERITAGE CORRIDORS SELECT 14 COMMUNITIES
FOR REGIONAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE SURVEY**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission (JHCBRVNHCC) and the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. (QSHC) today announced the selection of 14 communities to participate in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. The program is part of DCR's Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative, which involves several initiatives that provide technical assistance and training in support of the preservation of historically-significant landscapes throughout Massachusetts.

Started in 2001, the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program gives direct technical assistance to help communities identify, document and plan for the protection of the heritage landscapes that are vital to the history, character and quality of life in the region. Participating communities this year are: Brimfield, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Hopedale, Leicester, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Sturbridge, Sutton and Uxbridge.

"The Heritage Landscape Inventory Program will provide an opportunity for these communities and the heritage corridors to work together to proactively protect resources and assist in smart growth planning efforts," said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. "Through this initiative, DCR and our partners will be able to provide these communities with technical assistance in the protection of the landscapes that shape the Last Green Valley and the birthplace of the American industrial revolution."

DCR has worked with 67 communities to date through the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, partnering in the past with the Essex National Heritage Commission, the Taunton River Wild & Scenic Study Committee, and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association. DCR's most recent partnership with JHCBRVNHCC and QSHC marks the first time these two adjoining heritage corridors have had an opportunity to work together.

For more information on the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, please visit DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/Inventoryprog.htm>. For more information about the National Heritage Corridors Reconnaissance Survey, please contact Jessica Rowcroft at 617-626-1380.

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